

July 14, 2017

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th St, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: WC Docket No. 17-108 – Restoring Internet Freedom**

Dear Ms. Dortch,

America's diverse businesses understand the importance of an open, free, and fair internet in which startups and entrepreneurs have the same opportunities as tech industry giants. Small businesses also understand that bureaucratic overregulation strangles innovation, scares off investment, and distorts the marketplace.

As the FCC reconsiders the 2015 Open Internet Order, we strongly urge you to prioritize both the importance of an open, free internet and the need for minimal regulations. Protecting the open internet need not and should not come at the cost of sacrificing innovation and network investment through outdated and unnecessary utility rules. It's unreasonable to hamstring the modern internet – in which network technologies and business models continue to evolve dynamically – with the burden of outdated public utility rules originally created for the Ma Bell telephone system of the 1930's.

When the FCC last considered Net Neutrality three years ago, diverse small businesses warned that imposing these onerous Title II utility rules would stifle investment and innovation. Sure enough, [experts recently reported](#) that investment in broadband network infrastructure has fallen since these utility rules went into effect. That means fewer dollars being spent to expand networks in underserved areas or upgrade networks to the faster speeds small businesses require to compete in today's economy.

We urge you to use this proceeding to find a better approach to protecting net neutrality that doesn't restrain the growth of better, faster broadband services for American consumers and small businesses. Ultimately, if the FCC is unable to find an alternative legal footing for net neutrality rules, Congress must act to pass protections into law. Strong net neutrality rules, including bright-line prohibitions against blocking and throttling, will ensure that the internet remains open and fair for all entrepreneurs, creators, and consumers.

On behalf of America's diverse small businesses, we appreciate your thoughtful consideration of these important issues and urge to work toward a solution that protects net neutrality without the harmful side effects of Title II utility rules.

Sincerely,

Javier Palomarez  
President and CEO  
**U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce**

Ron Busby  
President/CEO  
**U.S. Black Chambers, INC.**

Susan Allen  
National President and CEO  
**US Pan Asian American Chamber of Commerce**

Chiling Tong  
President and CEO  
**Asian & Pacific Islander American Chamber of Commerce & Entrepreneurship (National ACE)**

Justin G. Nelson  
Co-Founder & President  
**National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce**